

THE OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

AN ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB



SPOTLIGHT ON A HAM

BY LORNA, KA7RFD

Upon his discharge from the Navy in 1954, Randy Cobb, KA7HJT, was fascinated by the amateur radio station at the base in Treasure

Island, CA. He promptly bought the Radio Amateurs Handbook but gave up when he reached the chapter on oscillators. Another futile attempt to teach himself ended about 10 years later and it wasn't until 1980 after attending Dennis Fuell's class (AI7G) that he obtained his Novice license. BTCC, Bob Orr's class was next and that meant General in 1981 and on to Extra in 1982 at Seaside, the last time the FCC held examinations there.

Randy classifies himself as a C.I.O. (California Improved Oakie), having moved there with his family as a teenager. With a background in chemistry, his first employment was in the aerospace industry. However, he took correspondence classes in refrigeration, was soon moonlighting and started his own business in 1972 which lasted for 11 years. He now works for TRANE as a traveling salesman, covering most of Oregon and three Northern California counties, still in the heating and

cooling business.

His traveling schedule doesn't allow him much time to operate from a base station but he uses 40 meters frequently on a mobile rig and has made contacts with Japan, Hawaii, Russia and South America. Most contacts are made by CW and he says he doesn't have any problem carrying the message in his head while driving "unless the other operator makes too many mistakes".

A neighbor, Roger, K7RXU, encouraged Randy to visit an OTUARC meeting. He enjoyed the program and joined our club the next month and jumped right in at the deep end.

He was Vice President for two years and for almost every other year he's been in the club has been a Trustee. He's on the Technical committee, Field Day committee and was instrumental in getting the trailer started.

A group consisting of Randy, Roger, Cary, KA7KDB, Warren, NTBIJ and Don, W7BBH worked long and hard on Saturdays digging holes, pouring concrete and erecting towers to get the trailer fund started. For one job they received \$1,200 for their endeavor.

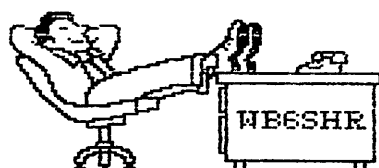
Randy's real love is the administration side of ham radio. When Dennis stopped teaching the Novice class at PCC, Randy took that over, he's an Officer with the Amateur Radio Relay Group, Inc., has had a lot to do with the volunteer examiner program and was recently elected as Chairman of NAR-C for the Volunteer Examiner Program.

Randy is married to Marcia, KA7QZQ, who has yet to get on the air. They have three children; Chrissie, KA7OTG, who lives in Vancouver, Fiona in Southeast Portland and John, stationed in the Army in North Carolina.

We thank you, Randy, for the excellent job you have done and continue to do not only with OTUARC but the entire Portland area in educating and assisting new members to our hobby.



RANDY COBB
KA7HJT



THE PREZ SEZ

First of all, "Greetings" to all of our new members. I would like to personally welcome all of you to our ranks. If you have questions about the club or its activities, grab someone or come see me at the next meeting. We will be more than happy to bring you up to date. We want you to feel at home here with your new friends.

What an exciting month January was. On January 7, the club had its first board meeting of the year. We had a very full agenda and it was a very productive meeting. We also had a good turn out at the club meeting on January 14; I was thrilled to see everyone out in the crowd. The club camping trip to the coast was great fun as well.

February could prove to be another exciting month. This is what is lined up so far: the Field Day Site Committee will be evaluating potential locations in the Willamette Valley, the project committee will be building a prototype receiver kit for the monthly project nite, a crew will be put together for an auction to be held in April (hopefully) and the trailer group will be going out on another camping trip. Club business will focus on rewording the life membership amendment and the club budget will be fine tuned.

Upon closing, I have one comment to make. It is obvious there is a wide range of interests among our club members. If you have a special interest that has something to do with amateur radio and you would like to share your interests with the club, please let us know. Maybe there are others in the club that would like to learn more about it. Feel free to contact me, one of the club officers or committee chairpersons.

Yours truly, Paul.



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Ever wonder what the attenuation of your low pass filter really is? How good is the harmonic suppression of your handheld? Bring your low pass filters and handhelds to the February meeting and find out how to answer these questions and more.

A leading sales rep from Tektronix (none other than Stan, W7ND) will be there to demonstrate how these and other questions can be answered using state of the art equipment.

CLUB AUCTION PLANNED

This year we would like to try something new. We would like to generate interest in an auction so as to raise money for the club treasury. As of this writing, we have two people interested in helping out. We will certainly need more if we plan to have a successful program. Just to let you know what is involved, here is a partial listing of some of the key activities:

Volunteers organized by February 7
Plan of attack listed by February 14
Location secured by February 14
Advertising during February/March
Find prize donors during March/April
Set up auction area April 24 and 25
Hold auction April 25 and clean up

As you can see, we have a long road in front of us. We have about 40 suggestions for auction items which need to be solicited; not to mention the other good ideas which the auction group can come up with.

If you have any of those good ideas or want to help out, PLEASE call Paul, WB6SHR at 641-8703, Jeff, K7JF at 297-7965, Susan, N7EPE at 640-1983 or Chuck, N7DZA at 641-4565 evenings.

Your help can make this auction an annual event which will greatly benefit the club and add to our resources for future programs.

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LORNA'S LOOKOUT

EDITORIAL BY LORNA, KA7RFD



Some people have remarked they would like OTUARC to do more in the realm of ham radio. Others have said they would like more social programs.

Let's take a run down of what we are offering at the present time: January's program and February's planned

program are both of a technical nature, contests come up at various times during the year. Project Night is being reinstated (at press time, Terry, WB7CHK, still hadn't received the kit, but he hopes to make an announcement at the next meeting). Help is always needed at Field Day to set up the stations and everyone can operate. Great experience can be obtained by operating with a higher class ham. The trailer is coming along in leaps and bounds.

On the social side, there's the annual campout, dinner-out planned and the suggestion of roller skating parties.

SEA-PAC, Beaverton Good Neighbor Days and public service events fall into both categories where your expertise is needed but certainly there is time for socializing.

A list of committee chairpersons appears in this issue, so if you want to get involved, just give them a call.

After yet, if you see a need for an activity, follow Tony's fine example (KA7ZDE) and get something going like the very successful RV program. The auction grew out of a suggestion by Jeff, K7JF and has been materially added to by a donation from Don, W7HPI with a suggestion that we all clear out our discards from the basement or attic for the benefit of the club and its members.

Remember it's your club and we can have any activities you choose. Don't wait for someone else to get it started.

Anyone for bowling?

SEA-PAC LADIES PROGRAM

The SEA-PAC Ladies Program Committee is soliciting your suggestions as to the type of programs you would like offered; including a speaker for the Saturday luncheon, menu ideas, etc.

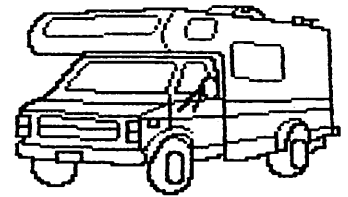
Please give one of the ladies on the committee a call if you have any recommendations:

Val Roehl, KA7QEU
Marvel Noyes, KA7TZT
Fran Haag, N1FE
Susan Benson, N7EPE

244-9323
292-3261
649-8266
640-1989

CAMPERS CORNER

BY TONY, KA7ZDE



We had a great time in Depot Bay. Holiday RV Park is a very nice place to spend the weekend or even a week or two. We had a nice heated indoor pool, large jacuzzi hot tub and there was a sauna in the shower rooms. Most all took advantage of these facilities and those who didn't, enjoyed watching the others.

Saturday night we used the recreation room for a pot luck and gathering place. Bill, N7DJW had it the best though; he wasn't going to take a chance on the pot luck. His daughter Karen fixed them both a wonderful steak dinner. I tried to trade my chicken for one of their steaks, but got no takers.

The company we all enjoyed were Paul, WB6SHR, and Bonnie with



daughter Christy; Dave, N7DWL, and Marian; Don, W6AES, and Betty; Bill, N7DJW, with daughter Karen; Tony, KA7ZDE, and Bobbi. We also had some visitors;

Willis, N7DZR, and Norma along with their daughter Linda and grandson Steve and Ben, N7BQN and Kari, KA7WFR with their two children, Josh and Jessie.

We also got to chat with a couple of other ham campers; Ken Seipp, WB7TCW from Rickreall, Oregon and George Neller, N7DUZ from Dallesport, Washington.

The campout will be held at the Cape Kiwanda R.V. Park in Pacific City the weekend of February 20-22. The campground is halfway between Tillamook and Lincoln City; four miles west off Highway 101, one mile north of Pacific City on 3 Cape Drive, directly across the road from the beach.

I would appreciate a call from those of you who plan on going, so that I can make sure we have spaces together. My telephone number is 645-4188 and address is 18415 S. W. Salix Ridge, Aloha, Oregon 97006.



If your plans change at the last minute and you find you can join us and haven't made your plans known, don't let that stop you. We will be glad to see you.

This is an entire club function and all members and their guests are welcome to attend.

MEMBERS CELEBRATE FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations
to the following
members who are
celebrating their
birthdays this
month ...

Gary Ward	KD7UZ	Feb	1
D. A. Boyd	WATZQP		3
Ken Davenport	K7SXI		4
Janet Bell	WETFJC		5
Willis Ranes	N7DZR		8
Eric Kosko	WATYSU		9
Linda King	N7CZY		15
Ben Beberness	KA7PWN		17
Floyd Passmore	WTKLE		24
Roger Noyes	KA7RNN		26
Bob Andrews	WB7DWD		28
Paul Lucas	WB6SHR		28



ODDS AND ENDS

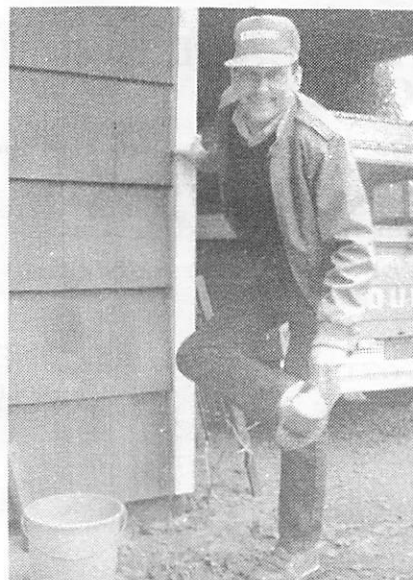
BY JEFF, K7JF

Congratulations to Tony, KA7ZDE who recently upgraded from Novice to General. You may have already heard Tony on the local repeaters signing "interim AG." Good job Tony. On to Extra!

Board meetings are held on the Wednesday PRECEDING the monthly club meetings in the former Council Chambers, Beaverton City Hall, Southwest 5th and Hall at 7:30 PM. All club members are welcome to attend and share their input with the Board. Next meeting is March 4.

To conserve a few of our Treasury's precious dollars, the Board has decided to print the roster on a quarterly basis, starting in February. Up to this time, paper and monthly printing was free (about \$300 per year). With a change in my employment, it's pretty well gone. We will print 150 copies per quarter; any changes for the interim will be published in the Newsletter.

Thanks to Neil, WA6KLA for this tip: the FCC has a microfiche index of all licensed operators in the country; hams, yacht owners, CB'ers, etc. at their office downtown. With the Freedom of Information Act it's all public knowledge. The index is a great way to find a lost ham, obtain marketing information and more.



HERE WE FIND
WARREN
N7BJ
CLEANING UP
AFTER A BOUT
WITH A DOG
MUFFIN
IN HAMILTON
PARK
LOOKING FOR
FIELD DAY
SITES

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

Welcome to our SIX new members who joined our ranks during January.

Chris Bednarek, K2RAG is a General class operator and manager at Tektronix. Chris is an ARRL member, who lists SSB, RTTY, DX and experimenting as amateur-related interests. Outside hobbies are skiing and running. Wife is Madeline. Club opportunities include Field Day and Public Service Committees. Glad to have you Chris!

Welcome Joanne Kryszek, KB7AFJ who just received her Novice license. You may recall Joanne's OM Jerry, K7RN who joined the club in December. Joanne is a disclosure officer with the Internal Revenue Service and is not quite sure what her interests in hamming (or the club) are at this time. We'll bug ya in six months then!

Jim Scheffer, KB7ADH is also a new Novice, listing himself as a buyer/purchaser for Bingham International. Jim is interested in UHF/UHF as well as Public Service and is an avid long-distance runner.



Randy Stevens, KA7TDZ is a returning member, having joined OTVARC in 1985. A Technician class operator, Randy is a full-time student listing CW, Packet, SSTV, UHF/UHF and Satellite interests.

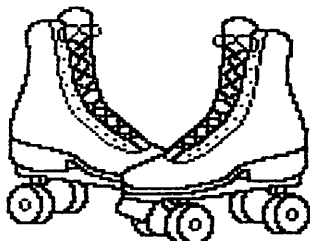
Last (but certainly not least) we welcome Ardyce and Ken Moore, KA7WXX and KA7WDV. We always love to receive member applications in the mail, as with the Moores, it really made our day. The Moores are retired and show interests in UHF/UHF and computers. Is that your satellite dish in the backyard off Denney Road?

We're glad to have you folks with us, let's see you at our meetings so we can get to know you personally.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY

BY JOAN, KA7VXC

Let's have a skating party! This would be a nice family outing. It's a great way to get some exercise and have some fun.



I called Hillsboro Skateworld on price and time. They are open for evening skating Wednesday through Sunday from 7:00-9:30 PM; price \$2.50 per person.

Oaks Park has Monday evening open for private groups. The charge is \$2.00 per person with a minimum of \$200.00 for two hours. Saturday night is also available at \$2.25 per person from 7:00-9:30.

I would like to know if we can interest enough people to get a large group. Also, which location would people prefer? At the next club meeting I'll have a sign up sheet for those interested in skating.

TRAILER UPDATE

BY DEE, KA7NPN

The trailer has GAS pipes and 110VAC wiring now, thanks to a crew that got together January 17. We will continue to have work parties about once a month in order to complete the trailer project by June.

Some of you signed up last spring to help out; others will have another chance to get on the list at the next club meeting. If we miss you and you're still interested in helping out, please give me a call at 646-4580.

The next step is to complete the DC wiring and install lighting and fixtures.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS



FEBRUARY 21: Salem Hamfair, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall.

Swap tables, exhibits, VE testing, lots more.

APRIL 25: Inland Empire Swapfest, Red Cross Bingo Hall, Spokane.

Seminars on DX, Amateur Satellite, Packet Radio, Electrical Safety, CPR and other topics. Swap tables, dealer exhibits.

CALL QUIZ

BY AL, WB7SIC

This is a test to see how well you know some of our club members and their past calls. Given are names and present calls. What was the prior call of each?

Willis Ranes, N7DZR:

Hanford Van Ness, KE7BB:

Bill Wolverton, KI7F:

Marty McKillip, KD7LA:

Roy Nunley, N7DUJ:

Jerry Norman, ND7T:

Dennis Fisk, N7CME:

Fran Haag, NI7E:

Martin Schmid, N7CYG:

John Koenig, NB7W:

Jeff Schultz, KQ7I:

John Burgess, N7DCQ:

Steve Danielson, N7DNN:

Wally Boleen, KC7TB:

Larry Ogburn, KC7QU:

Randy Stimson, KZ7T:

George Gale, KD7GJ:

Katy Lapay, N7GCL:

Gary Ward, KD7UZ:

Here are the calls to work with:

WB7PPY	KA7NFX	KA7GHS	N7CRP
KA7JWP	KA7KKO	KA7CZN	N7CFN
N7ACO	KH6IPX	N7CWN	KA7MFY
KA7LGY	KA7KIS	KA7KBJ	KA7QWJ
WA7UEU	KA7CTP	WB7RKC	KA7DHU

Answers in next month's Newsletter.

CORRECTION

In the article "Stanley Hamm on Towers" in the January Newsletter, we inadvertently left a line out in the seventh paragraph. Our apologies to W7NI. The sentences should have read:



"If you try to go higher by adding sections to the bottom part below the hinge, the antenna will not be near the ground when the tower is tilted over. If you add sections above the hinge, too much stress is applied to the tower legs while it is being tilted up with maximum stress occurring as the tower goes through horizontal position."

ADVENTURES INTO PACKET

BY UAN, KETBB AND JIM, AETW

Several months ago the authors started talking among themselves about "getting into" packet radio. Well, talk is cheap and becomes repetitious after a while so it was "put-up or shut-up" time. However, further discussion became necessary in order to decide how to get into packet and other forms of digital communication, RTTY, (Baudot and ASCII) AMTOR and Morse Code. Examining articles and ads in such sources as QST, we came to the consensus that the AEA PACKRATT Model PK-232 was the way to go. True it was one of the more expensive ways, but this unit offered a lot besides packet. It gives you many other modes of



computer oriented operations.

So with the courage of the profoundly naive, the enthusiasm of the truly eager and the willingness to spend, we plunged ahead

and ordered, independently, the model PK-232. (This is not a commercial for the PK-232.) After waiting about one week, UPS delivered our equipment. On opening the package the following was found. The PACKRATT itself, a plastic bag with cables and connectors and an operating manual having 280 plus pages. With an operating manual that big you can be sure that there is a lot to be learned about Packet. It tells what all of the connectors and cables are for plus all you need to know on how to operate the equipment and a lot more.

The cables and connectors get you hooked up to your transceivers. There are two input channels to the PACKRATT, allowing the rig to be connected to more than one radio without having to change cables or invest (invent?) in a switching box or play switch board operator. One connection can be for your HF rig and the other one for your 2 Meter rig. You need to supply the connectors to connect the PK-232 to your radios. You also have to provide your own cable between the PACKRATT and your computer. Incidentally, your computer must have a serial port (RS232) to communicate with the PACKRATT.



A "dumb" computer terminal can also be used. Other Packet rigs may use a slot or cartridge port of a computer such as the IBM or Commodore 64. We will limit our discussion to packet radio, so the computer and interface side of the station will be referred to as a TNC (Terminal Node Controller).



Chapter 1 of the manual gives all of the specifications of the TNC and its general description. Chapter 2 tells you how to make the connections to your radio(s) and initial equipment check-out. These connections are to the receiver audio, (speaker or phone patch jack) transmit audio in (microphone) and the push-to-talk (PTT). (VOX isn't fast enough for packet). No internal modifications are probably necessary to the radios. We have both connected the TNC to our 2M and HF rigs without needing to get inside.

In the way of skills, nothing more is needed than what the average radio amateur already has. The check-out procedures are well defined and involve only your equipment, i.e. you do not have to get on the air. Now some of the real work is about to begin, namely studying the operation manual. Once we got well into reading the chapters on packet radio we realized how complex the little box is that we spent so much for. How do they sell them so cheaply? If one can take advantage of even half the features the PK-232 has to offer, we believe you get your money's worth.

During the check-out period, KETBB experienced a problem that took a experimenting and consulting with others to overcome. In addition to having a RS232 serial port or equivalent on your computer, you must also have some type of a communications program. This program sets up all of the parameters needed by your terminal to receive and send information.



At first I thought my TNC unit was not working properly so I took it over to Paul's (WB7BGC) ham shack and tried it out there. He too had recently got one of the same units and had very good results with it; although he was still in the learning mode. Paul helped me determine my TNC was working properly, so it had to be me! After reading the operation manuals for both the TNC and the communications program, I found the start-up commands between the TNC and the communications program were not initially compatible; the communications program set-up procedure allowed me to fix this difference. Jim's computer and communication package interfaced correctly the first try. Hopefully you will have the same luck. With this problem solved, I believed I was ready for my first packet QSO!

To be continued

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